but also assulted him. In the assault both the Station Officer and the constable sustained injuries. Smt. Kuttu Bai was forcibly made to sit on the funeral pyre of her husband as a result of which she died on burning.

(b) There was no apparent resistance from the crowd to this incident. However, Station Officer present on the spot tried to pull Smt. Kuttu Bai out of her husband's funeral pyre but the people present there assaulted him and prevented him from doing so and thus foiled his effort.

(c) No, Sir. The worhsip of Sati and glorification of the act is not common. Such incidents are rare and prominently condemned by the Government, Non-government organizations and the media. As per the records available in the national Crime Records Bureau, only one case was reported under Sati Prevention Act during 1997 in the State of Uttar Pradesh. No other State and UT reported any such case during last 5 years from 1997 to 2001.

(d) A criminal case No. 63/02 under section 302, 201, 120B IPC was registered at Police Station Saleha against thirty accused persons for forcibly making Smt. Kuttu Bai sit on the funeral pyre of her husband. In course of investigation, section 4(1)(2) G Sati Prevent Act, was also added to the case. The case has been charge sheeted on 30.9.2002 against the accused persons in the special court set up under the provisions of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987 at Sagar.

In respect of assault on the station officer, another criminal case No. 62/02 under sections 307, 147 and 332 of IPC was registered against ten persons. During investigation Section 4(2)(G) of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987 was added and after completion of investigation a chargesheet has been filed in the special court at Sagar on 30.9.2002.

Air intrusion

1534. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:
SHRI P. PRABHKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently an unidentified aircraft intruded in Indian Territory in the North Bengal area and is reported to have dropped two parcels in Indian Territory;

(b) whether local witnesses have confirmed that they had sighted the aircraft flying lower over this area; and

(c) if so, what are the details of the case and why no action was taken against this introducing aircraft?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The claim of local witnesses sighting an aircraft could not be substantiated and was found to be incorrect.

Ranking of India in corruption

1535. DR. ABRAR AHMED:
SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a globally recognised annual survey of corruption has put India at No. 71 in a list of 102 countries as reported in the Hindustan Times of August 29, 2002; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) The Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Attempt to hijack Air Seychelles Aircraft

1536. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA:
SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether investigation have been made to establish the motive and the manner in which the alleged hijack attempt on Air Seychelles was made in September, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to make security check at airports more fool-proof?